Preliminary Prior Art Search Guidance

Prior Art must be disclosed to the USPTO as part of the patent application. Materials that may be prior art might include, for example, relevant patent publications, trade brochures and articles in technical or trade journals of which the applicant is aware. The consequences of failing to disclose may be severe and could include unenforceability of the entire patent. Because the duty of disclosure continues until issuance, if any, of the patent, you should notify OPRA@sunypoly.edu if you become aware of any relevant references which were not previously disclosed to us or by us to the USPTO relating to your application.

Please consider the suggested searches below as guidance in performing the preliminary patent search. Unless we receive your written disclosures or findings from any searches written instructions to the contrary beforehand, we will presume that you have no further references to add when submitting the Request for Patent form.

* Survey/knowledge of the market
* Publications, journals, libraries, etc.
* [http://www.google.com](http://www.google.com/)
* <http://www.USPTO.gov> website (use advanced search features and look at classifications for other similar patents). You can download a reader at USPTO.gov to see the patent diagrams. If you can’t see the pdf at USPTO.gov, you can find them on freepatentsonline.com. Begin with USPTO.gov since the search engine is said to be more comprehensive. The patents referenced in the patents on freepatentsonline.com are hyperlinked so it is better to switch to this site after you find any relevant patents at USPTO.gov.
  + Classification search searching classifications from relevant patents <http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/classification/selectnumwithtitle.htm>
* <http://patents.google.com> Google patent search. This is said to be very fast and the scope is the most broad but you can’t rely on it for a few reasons. It does not have that many search fields, there have been holes reported in this database and most recent patents may not be found.
* <http://ip.com/products/innovationq/> With an account, you are able to search an extensive prior art database.
* <http://www.freepatentsonline.com/> Free patents Online from US 4000000; updated as new patents are published by the USPTO.
* <http://www.wipo.int/ipdl/en/> WIPO’s Intellectual Property Digital Library.
* <http://www.wipo.int/pctdb/en/search-adv.jsp> PCT Advanced Search (front page data w/ drawings).
* <http://ep.espacenet.com/> Esp@ceNet (European Patent Office with full pdf images of patents, including US).
* <http://www.aes.org/aeshc/patent.search/patents-from-depatisnet.html>DEPATISnet (especially good for German patents).
* <http://www.delphion.com/?gclid=CIHAicnR2psCFSBN5QodnmxT-w> Delphion.